

## SSI In New Jersey

People in financial need who are 65 or older or people of any age who are blind or have a disability (including children) may be eligible for monthly cash payments from the federal government. The payments are called Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

You may be eligible for SSI payments if you have little or no income and if the value of the things you own is less than \$2,000 if you are single or \$3,000 if you are married. We do not count the value of your home or your car (if it is not an expensive model). Certain other assets may not count either. Call Social Security for more information.

In addition to meeting the income limits, you must live in the U.S. or the Northern Mariana Islands **and** be in one of the following groups:

- A U.S. citizen or national;
- Lawful permanent resident with 40 work credits;
- Certain noncitizens with a military service connection, and their spouses or unmarried dependent children; or
- Certain refugees, asylees or individuals whose deportation has been withheld may be eligible for five years after the date their immigration status was granted.

Also, you must apply for any other money benefits for which you may be eligible.

Even though the Social Security Administration runs the program, SSI is not the same as Social Security. Money for SSI payments comes from the general fund of the U.S. Treasury.

The state of New Jersey adds money to the federal payment. For the convenience of SSI recipients, the state of New Jersey and the federal government have agreed to include the state share of the payments in the federal check. Therefore, SSI recipients receive one U.S. government check during the first week of each month with federal and state money included.

The back of this factsheet has a table showing the 1997 maximum monthly payment amounts for SSI recipients in different living arrangements.

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### Medical Assistance

If you receive SSI payments, you usually get medical assistance (Medicaid) automatically. A separate Medicaid application isn't necessary. A letter of acceptance and a Medicaid Identification Card will be sent to anyone eligible for SSI. If your SSI is denied, you should file for Medicaid with the Department of Human Services.

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### Food Stamps

When you receive SSI, you also may be eligible for food stamps. Food stamps can help you buy more food without spending more money. Social Security doesn't decide if you can get food stamps. *However, people who live in a household where everyone is applying for or receiving SSI may apply for food stamps at a Social Security office.*

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### Other Social Services

Many New Jersey counties provide the following social services at no cost to people receiving SSI:

- Counseling casework
- Homemaker services
- Information and referral services
- Housing services
- Home-delivered meals
- Transportation
- Educational training and employment assistance
- Friendly visitors
- Special assistance for the blind and deaf
- Special assistance for drug abusers

- Money management services
  - Consumer protection services
- For more information on these and other social services, contact your local county welfare agency.

## SSI Payments

The amounts shown at the bottom of this factsheet include both federal and state money. Not all SSI recipients receive the maximum payment amounts. Payments may be lower if you have other income. Your Social Security office can give you more information about payment levels and how income affects them.

## For More Information

You can get recorded information about Social Security coverage 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays, by calling Social Security's toll-free number, **1-800-772-1213**. You can speak to a service representative between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on business days. Our lines are

busiest early in the week and early in the month, so if your business can wait, it's best to call at other times. Whenever you call, have your Social Security number handy.

People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call our toll-free "TTY" number, 1-800-325-0778, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on business days.

You also can reach us on the Internet. Type <http://www.ssa.gov> to access Social Security information.

The people at Social Security can tell you what information you need to apply for SSI. Parents and guardians can apply on behalf of children under 18 who are blind or have a disability.

The Social Security Administration treats all calls confidentially—whether they're made to our toll-free numbers or to one of our local offices. We also want to ensure that you receive accurate and courteous service. That is why we have a second Social Security representative monitor some incoming and outgoing telephone calls.

Category	Total SSI Payment
Individual living alone or with others	\$515.25
Individual living with ineligible spouse	751.36
Individual living in the household of another and receiving support and maintenance	366.98
Individual living in licensed residential health care facility	634.05
Individual living in public general hospital or long-term health facility (Medicaid-approved)	40.00
Couple living alone or with others	751.36
Couple living in the household of another and receiving support and maintenance	577.09
Couple living in licensed residential health care facility	1,249.36

